

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3154

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2425

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO, GR

SUBJECT: MFA COMMENTS ON ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV DISPUTE OVER TRIESTE

1. ON APRIL 23, AMB. PAPAIOANNOU, DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, GREEK MFA, PROVIDED POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF WITH FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF GOG CONTACTS IN CONNECTION WITH ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV DISPUTE OVER TRIESTE.

2. YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS IN BELGRADE HAVE SOUGHT TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH ALBANIA AND RUMANIA SUPPORT BOY IN TRIESTE DISPUTE, BUT GREEK EMBASSIES IN TIRANA AND BUCHAREST REPORT BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO TAKE SIDES. NOT SURPRISINGLY, GREEK EMBASSY SOFIA REPORTS BULGARIAN OFFICIALS LOSE NO OPPORTUNITY TO DENOUNCE YUGOSLAV "ADVENTURISM", A POSITION WHICH CLOSELY PRALLELS THAT OF ATHENS.

3. YUGOSLAV COUNSELOR BOZIC CALLED ON MFA APRIL 16 TO MAKE FORMAL PRESENTATION OF YUGOSLAV SIDE OF TRIESTE DISPUTE AND INQUIRE ABOUT GREEK POSITION. PAPAIOANNOU REPLIED GREECE FELT NO NEED TO ADOPT POSITION ON A MATTER WHICH HAD BEEN SETTLED FOR
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MANY YEARS. WHEN BOZIC WONDERED WHY "ITALIANS, WITH US BACKING"

WERE CHOOSING THIS MOMENT TO "ATTACH" YUGOSLAVIA, PAPAIOANNOU RESPONDED THAT TRIESTE TROUBLE WAS APPARENTLY TOUCHED OFF BY YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE WITHOUT WHICH ISSUE WOULD NOT HAVE ARISEN AND SUGGESTED THAT IF YUGOSLAVS "STOPPED SHOUTING" ITALIANS TOO WOULD PROBABLY LET MATTER QUIETLY DROP. PAPAIOANNOU ALSO RIDICULED THEORY OF US INSPIRATION OF AND SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN POSITION, ADDING THAT IN GREEK VIEW US AND NATO GENERALLY SHARED DESIRE FOR STABILITY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

4. ON APRIL 18 ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR SEITI CALLED ON PAPAIOANNOU. SEITI NOTED RECENT LCY PRONOUNCEMENT ON MACEDONIA HAD ALLUDED TO EXISTENCE OF A MACEDONIAN MINORITY IN ALBANIA FOR FIRST TIME AND EXPRESSED BEWILDERMENT WHY YUGOSLAVIA NOW LASHING OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS WITHOUT PROVOCATION.

5. PAPAIOANNOU CONCLUDED THAT IN GOG VIEW CURRENT YUGOSLAV BEHAVIOR REFLECTS ACUTE INTERNAL WEAKNESS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS FORCED TO UNDERTAKE ILLOGICAL AND EVEN FOOLISH FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES IN ORDER TO SECURE APPROVAL OF EACH REPUBLIC FOR OVERALL GOY FOREIGN POLICY. HE ATTRIBUTED RECENT ANTI-US AND ANTI-NATO STATEMENTS AS EFFORT TO MARSHAL INTERNAL SUPPORT FOR REGIME AND OPINED THAT LACK OF SIMILAR ATTACKS ON SOVIET UNION AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WAS INDICATION THAT IT IS NOW "WEST'S TURN."
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